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POMPIDOU REMARKS AT CABINET MEETING CITED

L121138 PARIS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH 1200 GMT 11 OCT 72 L

(EXCERPT) THIS MORNING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT GENERAL SECRETARY ALPHAND HAS RECEIVED U.S. AMBASSADOR TO PARIS WATSON. ALPHAND INFORMED MR WATSON OF THE DEEP EMOTION FELT BY HIS GOVERNMENT WHEN IT HEARD THAT FOLLOWING THE BOMBING RAID LAST NIGHT THE FRENCH DELEGATE-GENERAL IN HANOI WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED, THAT SEVERAL VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES IN OUR MISSION HAD BEEN KILLED AND THAT MUCH DAMAGE HAD BEEN DONE TO FRENCH DIPLOMATIC BUILDINGS. AT THE SAME TIME, AT THE CABINET MEETING, M. GEORGES POMPIDOU SPOKE AND JEAN-PHILIPPE LECAT, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, SUMMED UP WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC SAID IN SAID A SHORT WHILE AGO.

(LECAT, RECORDED) POMPIDOU STATED THAT THIS MORNING THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S PROTEST HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC EXPRESSED HIS EMOTION OVER THIS DEPLORABLE ACTION AND EXPRESSED TO MR SUSINI, DELEGATE-GENERAL OF FRANCE IN NORTH VIETNAM, AND TO THE FRENCH AND VIETNAMESE VICTIMS, HIS SYMPATHY AND GOOD WISHES FOR THEIR RECOVERY.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS INSTRUCTED FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO PEKING MANACH TO GO TO THE SCENE OF THE EVENT.

POMPIDOU PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ATTITUDE OF THE DELEGATE-GENERAL TO NORTH VIETNAM AND OF THE FRENCH STAFF WHO HAD RUN THEIR MISSION IN PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES." (LECAT RECORDING ENDS)

JEAN-PHILIPPE LECAT ALSO STATED THAT DIRECT LINKS WITH HANOI HAVE BEEN CUT. CONCERNING THOSE PERSONS INVOLVED, ONLY DETAILS ABOUT MR SUSINI'S SERIOUS INJURIES ARE KNOWN, -WELL -THE FACT THAT FOUR OR FIVE VICTIMS HAVE NOT YET BEEN DUG OUT. AT PRESENT NOTHING IS KNOWN ABOUT THE SITUATION OF THE FRENCH STAFF.

AS FOR THE PARIS TALKS AND THE KISSINGER-SCHUMANN TALKS, MR LECAT DID NOT MAKE ANY COMMENT EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT, WHILE FRANCE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESTORATION OF PEACE IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD MAY BE IMPORTANT, IT MUST BE A DISCREET ROLE. A GENERAL REVIEW MIGHT BE MADE AT THE OPPORTUNE TIME, HE SAID.

11 OCT 1325Z WJ/MA
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